

'PC' readers rate PCs

If you're in the market for a new computer, check out the July issue of *PC* magazine. Beginning on page 183, you'll find the results from the magazine's 12th annual Readers' Choice survey for service and reliability.

In grading desktop computers, Dell, IBM and Quantex were given the highest mark, an A rating. In the B category were Apple, Hewlett-Packard, Micron and Sony. The largest group, C, included AT&T, CompUSA, Digital, Gateway, NEC, Toshiba, Zenith Data Systems, ZEOS and machines locally built.

The D group included AST, Compaq and MidWest Micro. Rounding out the desktop rating list were Acer and Packard Bell in the E group.

As for notebook computers, IBM and Sony were rated A, Compaq, Dell, Gateway, Micron and Toshiba earned a B rating, Acer, Apple, Digital, Fujitsu, Hewlett-Packard, Hitachi and NEC completed the C category, Texas Instruments and WinBook were given D ratings and AST got the only E rating.

Some of the computer makers might complain about their rankings. But it's interesting to note that, for the most part, the rankings have remained fairly constant for most of the vendors since 1993, according to a chart published with the magazine story.

In the desktop category, for example, Dell has earned A marks each time the survey was taken, except for a single B rating it received in 1995. Packard Bell, meanwhile, has earned a steady stream of D and E ratings, except for a single C rating in 1995.